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Black Mountain College Reflection

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### Black Mountain College Visit

Visiting the historic Black Mountain College on a cold, foggy morning, with my fellow current art students provided much insight into the experiences of former Black Mountain College students. It was very interesting for me to see the creative spaces that these important and historic artists worked in and the differences between those spaces and the spaces that we create now. Black Mountain College felt very secluded, away from everything else, a self-encapsulating environment that functioned on its own. I suppose in a way, the current use and functions of the college space provide a look into just how much of a self-sufficient biome it is. The college campus is now used as a summer camp, which can show that everything that a group of students needs is on campus and that they were able to fully experience life on campus without leaving. Unlike on a current-day college campus, such as Converse, there weren't any commuting students, it wasn't easy for students to just walk down the road and eat out at a restaurant or go to a park. The campus itself provided creative inspiration for the students.

Seeing the college in person, I'm able to better understand how the campus can be so inviting and creatively inspiring. The heavy fog weighing on the Blue Ridge Mountains, the bright reflections of the trees along the lake, and the strong smell of old wood in the buildings brought out a sense of comfort. I can imagine that after spending so much time building and creating the college alongside their professors, would give a strong emotional bond to the buildings and the area surrounding them.

While visiting the Black Mountain College Museum, it really interested me is the diversity within the medium and subject matter of the art. I specifically found the art depicting the experiences of people of color, considering that there was a small proportion of people of color who attended the college, and those who did, did so during a time of harsh backlash towards integrated colleges. I also found the extreme diversity of medium in the museum incredibly pleasing and interesting. There were many sculptures and each one had a different medium, texture, and depiction. There were soft shapes, harsh shapes, and uncomfortable shapes, Every painting had a different style and every piece of art depicted a different experience. It was kind of encouraging to see, as an up and coming artist, that so many different art forms can be appreciated.

On the other hand, the existence of art in a museum as a fundamental is something that tends to make me a bit uncomfortable. I suppose it aligns with the argument of making art for artists rather than people. It tends to take art away from its intended location, with the people. And even those who are built to be in museums could be displayed in a better way than they have been in the past however many years. On a white pedestal, on a blank white wall, suspended from a cold white ceiling, in silence. I think that the display should definitely have more impact from the artist.